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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An approach for minimizing queueing delay of packets is disclosed. *M* number of queues are configured to store packets. A memory stores a search order table that has table entries corresponding to the *M* queues. Specifically, the table entries store values that correspond to relative positions of the *M* queues and that are selected based upon a transmission constraint of the communication system. A scheduler is coupled to the memory and is configured to schedule transmission of the packets stored in the *M* queues based upon the search order table. According to one embodiment of the present invention, this queueing mechanism is applied in a satellite communication system with transmission constraints to the downlink cells.